

REMARKS

Claims 21, 23 to 27, 51, 53 to 57 and 64 are in the application, of which Claims 21, 51 and 64 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a series of telephonic interviews conducted to advance the present application to issuance. During the interviews, no agreement was reached regarding the claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following supplemental remarks in support of the claims as amended in the Preliminary Amendment and Request for Interview dated November 14, 2005.

U.S. Patent No. 6,009,439 (Shiomi) discloses a tree structure of words stored in a thesaurus (See Fig. 6). Using this tree structure, Shiomi disclosing classifying data into groups with an attribute based on the relationships established by the tree structure. Shiomi fails to disclose or suggest extracting common text data forming common meta-data from the multiple kinds of meta-data included in data files existing in a directory and generating directory meta-data for the directory by using the extracted common text data. For example, it is apparent that, in Fig. 6 the text string "MEAT" is not extracted as common text data from the text strings "PORK", "BEEF" and "CHICKEN".

REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW

Although the Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance, if upon consideration of this Preliminary Amendment the Examiner still has concerns as to the patentability of the claims, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants'

representative to arrange an interview in order to further advance prosecution of the subject application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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